



## HEPATITIS, CIRRHOSIS AND OTHER LIVER CONDITIONS DISABILITY BENEFITS QUESTIONNAIRE

**IMPORTANT** - THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA) **WILL NOT PAY** OR **REIMBURSE** ANY EXPENSES OR COST INCURRED IN THE PROCESS OF COMPLETING AND/OR SUBMITTING THIS FORM. PLEASE READ THE PRIVACY ACT AND RESPONDENT BURDEN INFORMATION BEFORE COMPLETING FORM.

NAME OF PATIENT/VETERAN

PATIENT/VETERAN'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

**NOTE TO PHYSICIAN** - Your patient is applying to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for disability benefits. VA will consider the information you provide on this questionnaire as part of their evaluation in processing the veteran's claim. VA reserves the right to confirm the authenticity of ALL DBQs completed by private health care providers.

### SECTION I - DIAGNOSIS

1A. DOES THE VETERAN NOW HAVE OR HAS HE OR SHE EVER BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH A LIVER CONDITION?

YES  NO (If "Yes," complete Item 1B)

**NOTE:** These are the diagnoses determined during this current evaluation of the claimed condition(s) listed below. If there is no diagnosis, if the diagnosis is different from a previous diagnosis for this condition, or if there is a diagnosis of a complication due to the claimed condition, explain your findings and reasons in the Remarks section. Date of diagnosis can be the date of the evaluation if the clinician is making the initial diagnosis, or an approximate date is determined through record review or reported history.

1B. SELECT THE VETERAN'S CONDITION (*check all that apply*):

- |   |                 |                          |                        |
|---|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hepatitis A                | ICD code: _____ | Date of diagnosis: _____ | (complete Section III) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hepatitis B                | ICD code: _____ | Date of diagnosis: _____ | (complete Section III) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hepatitis C                | ICD code: _____ | Date of diagnosis: _____ | (complete Section III) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Autoimmune hepatitis       | ICD code: _____ | Date of diagnosis: _____ | (complete Section III) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drug-induced hepatitis     | ICD code: _____ | Date of diagnosis: _____ | (complete Section III) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hemochromatosis            | ICD code: _____ | Date of diagnosis: _____ | (complete Section III) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cirrhosis of the liver     | ICD code: _____ | Date of diagnosis: _____ | (complete Section IV)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Primary biliary cirrhosis  | ICD code: _____ | Date of diagnosis: _____ | (complete Section IV)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sclerosing cholangitis     | ICD code: _____ | Date of diagnosis: _____ | (complete Section IV)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Liver transplant candidate | ICD code: _____ | Date of diagnosis: _____ | (complete Section V)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Liver transplant           | ICD code: _____ | Date of diagnosis: _____ | (complete Section V)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other liver conditions:    |                 |                          |                        |
| Other diagnosis #1: _____                           | ICD code: _____ | Date of diagnosis: _____ |                        |
| Other diagnosis #2: _____                           | ICD code: _____ | Date of diagnosis: _____ |                        |

1C. IF THERE ARE ADDITIONAL DIAGNOSES THAT PERTAIN TO LIVER CONDITIONS, LIST USING ABOVE FORMAT:

**NOTE:** Determination of these conditions requires documentation by appropriate serologic testing, abnormal liver function tests, and/or abnormal liver biopsy or imaging tests. If test results are documented in the medical record, additional testing is not required.

### SECTION II - MEDICAL HISTORY

2A. DESCRIBE THE HISTORY (*including cause, onset and course*) OF THE VETERAN'S LIVER CONDITIONS (*brief summary*):

**SECTION II - MEDICAL HISTORY (Continued)**

2B. IS CONTINUOUS MEDICATION REQUIRED FOR CONTROL OF THE VETERAN'S LIVER CONDITIONS?

YES  NO

IF YES, LIST ONLY THOSE MEDICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THE LIVER CONDITIONS:

**SECTION III - HEPATITIS**

*(Including hepatitis A, B and C, autoimmune or drug-induced hepatitis, any other infectious liver disease and chronic liver disease without cirrhosis)*

3A. DOES THE VETERAN CURRENTLY HAVE SIGNS OR SYMPTOMS ATTRIBUTABLE TO CHRONIC OR INFECTIOUS LIVER DISEASES?

YES  NO

IF YES, INDICATE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS ATTRIBUTABLE TO CHRONIC OR INFECTIOUS LIVER DISEASES *(check all that apply)*:

Fatigue

If checked, indicate frequency and severity:  Intermittent  Daily  Near-constant and debilitating

Malaise

If checked, indicate frequency and severity:  Intermittent  Daily  Near-constant and debilitating

Anorexia

If checked, indicate frequency and severity:  Intermittent  Daily  Near-constant and debilitating

Nausea

If checked, indicate frequency and severity:  Intermittent  Daily  Near-constant and debilitating

Vomiting

If checked, indicate frequency and severity:  Intermittent  Daily  Near-constant and debilitating

Arthralgia

If checked, indicate frequency and severity:  Intermittent  Daily  Near-constant and debilitating

Weight loss

If checked, provide baseline weight \_\_\_\_\_ and current weight \_\_\_\_\_

*(For VA purposes, baseline weight is the average weight for 2-year period preceding onset of disease)*

Also, indicate if this weight loss has been sustained for three months or longer:  YES  NO

Right upper quadrant pain

If checked, indicate frequency and severity:  Intermittent  Daily  Near-constant and debilitating

Hepatomegaly

Condition requires dietary restriction

If checked, describe dietary restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

Condition results in other indications of malnutrition

If checked, describe other indications of malnutrition: \_\_\_\_\_

Other, describe: \_\_\_\_\_

3B. HAS THE VETERAN BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH HEPATITIS C?

YES  NO

IF YES, INDICATE RISK FACTORS *(check all that apply)*:

Unknown

No known risk factors

Organ transplant before 1992

Transfusions of blood or blood products before 1992

Hemodialysis

Accidental exposure to blood by health care workers *(to include combat medic or corpsman)*

Intravenous drug use or intranasal cocaine use

High risk sexual activity

Other direct percutaneous exposure to blood *(such as by tattooing, body piercing, acupuncture with non-sterile needles, shared toothbrushes and/or shaving razors)*

If checked, describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Other, describe: \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION III - HEPATITIS (Continued)**

*(Including hepatitis A, B and C, autoimmune or drug-induced hepatitis, any other infectious liver disease and chronic liver disease without cirrhosis)*

3C. HAS THE VETERAN HAD ANY INCAPACITATING EPISODES *(with symptoms such as fatigue, malaise, nausea, vomiting, anorexia, arthralgia, and right upper quadrant pain)* DUE TO THE LIVER CONDITIONS DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS?

YES  NO

IF YES, PROVIDE THE TOTAL DURATION OF THE INCAPACITATING EPISODES OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS:

- Less than 1 week
- At least 1 week but less than 2 weeks
- At least 2 weeks but less than 4 weeks
- At least 4 weeks but less than 6 weeks
- 6 weeks or more

**NOTE:** For VA purposes, an "incapacitating episode" means a period of acute symptoms severe enough to require bed rest and treatment by a physician.

**SECTION IV - CIRRHOSIS OF THE LIVER, BILIARY CIRRHOSIS AND CIRRHOTIC PHASE OF SCLEROSING CHOLANGITIS**

4A. DOES THE VETERAN CURRENTLY HAVE SIGNS OR SYMPTOMS ATTRIBUTABLE TO CIRRHOSIS OF THE LIVER, BILIARY CIRRHOSIS OR CIRRHOTIC PHASE OF SCLEROSING CHOLANGITIS?

YES  NO

IF YES, INDICATE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS ATTRIBUTABLE TO CIRRHOSIS OF THE LIVER, BILIARY CIRRHOSIS OR CIRRHOTIC PHASE OF SCLEROSING CHOLANGITIS *(check all that apply)*:

- Weakness  
If checked, indicate frequency and severity:  Intermittent  Daily  Near-constant and debilitating
- Anorexia  
If checked, indicate frequency and severity:  Intermittent  Daily  Near-constant and debilitating
- Abdominal pain  
If checked, indicate frequency and severity:  Intermittent  Daily  Near-constant and debilitating
- Malaise  
If checked, indicate frequency and severity:  Intermittent  Daily  Near-constant and debilitating
- Weight loss  
If checked, provide baseline weight: \_\_\_\_\_ and current weight: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(For VA purposes, baseline weight is the average weight for 2-year period preceding onset of disease)*  
Also, indicate if this weight loss has been sustained for three months or longer:  YES  NO
- Ascites  
If checked, indicate frequency and severity *(check all that apply)*:  
 1 episode  2 or more episodes  Periods of remission between attacks  Refractory to treatment  
Date of last episode of ascites: \_\_\_\_\_
- Hepatic encephalopathy  
If checked, indicate frequency and severity *(check all that apply)*:  
 1 episode  2 or more episodes  Periods of remission between attacks  Refractory to treatment  
Date of last episode of hepatic encephalopathy: \_\_\_\_\_
- Hemorrhage from varices or portal gastropathy *(erosive gastritis)*  
If checked, indicate frequency and severity *(check all that apply)*:  
 1 episode  2 or more episodes  Periods of remission between attacks  Refractory to treatment  
Date of last episode of hemorrhage from varices or portal gastropathy: \_\_\_\_\_
- Portal hypertension
- Splenomegaly
- Persistent jaundice

**SECTION V - LIVER TRANSPLANT AND/OR LIVER INJURY**

5A. IS THE VETERAN A LIVER TRANSPLANT CANDIDATE?

YES  NO

5B. IS THE VETERAN CURRENTLY HOSPITALIZED AWAITING TRANSPLANT?

YES  NO

Date of hospital admission for this condition: \_\_\_\_\_

5C. HAS THE VETERAN UNDERGONE A LIVER TRANSPLANT?

YES  NO

Date(s) of surgery: \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) of hospital discharge: \_\_\_\_\_

Current signs and symptoms:

5D. HAS THE VETERAN HAD AN INJURY TO THE LIVER?

YES  NO (IF YES, DOES THE VETERAN HAVE PERITONEAL ADHESIONS RESULTING FROM AN INJURY TO THE LIVER?)

YES  NO (If "Yes," ALSO complete the VA Form 21-0960G-6, Peritoneal Adhesions Disability Benefits Questionnaire)

What are the signs and symptoms?

**SECTION VI - OTHER PERTINENT PHYSICAL FINDINGS, COMPLICATIONS, CONDITIONS, SIGNS AND/OR SYMPTOMS**

6A. DOES THE VETERAN HAVE ANY SCARS (*surgical or otherwise*) RELATED TO ANY CONDITIONS OR TO THE TREATMENT OF ANY CONDITIONS LISTED IN THE DIAGNOSIS SECTION?

YES  NO

IF YES, ARE ANY OF THE SCARS PAINFUL OR UNSTABLE; HAVE A TOTAL AREA EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN 39 SQUARE CM (*6 square inches*); OR ARE LOCATED ON THE HEAD, FACE OR NECK?

YES  NO

IF YES, ALSO COMPLETE VA FORM 21-0960F-1, SCARS/DISFIGUREMENT DISABILITY BENEFITS QUESTIONNAIRE.

IF NO, PROVIDE LOCATION AND MEASUREMENTS OF SCAR IN CENTIMETERS.

LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

MEASUREMENTS: Length \_\_\_\_\_ cm X width \_\_\_\_\_ cm.

**NOTE:** An "unstable scar" is one where, for any reason, there is frequent loss of covering of the skin over the scar. If there are multiple scars, enter additional locations and measurements in the Remarks section below. It is not necessary to also complete a Scars DBQ.

6B. DOES THE VETERAN HAVE ANY OTHER PERTINENT PHYSICAL FINDINGS, COMPLICATIONS, CONDITIONS, SIGNS AND/OR SYMPTOMS RELATED TO ANY CONDITIONS LISTED IN THE DIAGNOSIS SECTION?

YES  NO

IF YES, DESCRIBE (*brief summary*):

**SECTION VII - DIAGNOSTIC TESTING**

**NOTE:** Diagnosis of hepatitis C must be confirmed by recombinant immunoblot assay (RIBA). If this information is of record, repeat RIBA test is not required. If testing has been performed and reflects veteran's current condition, no further testing is required for this examination report.

7A. HAVE IMAGING STUDIES BEEN PERFORMED AND ARE THE RESULTS AVAILABLE?

YES  NO

IF YES, CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

<input type="checkbox"/> EUS ( <i>Endoscopic ultrasound</i> )	Date: _____	Results: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> ERCP ( <i>Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography</i> )	Date: _____	Results: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Transhepatic cholangiogram	Date: _____	Results: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> MRI or MRCP ( <i>magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography</i> )	Date: _____	Results: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> CT	Date: _____	Results: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other, describe: _____	Date: _____	Results: _____

7B. HAVE LABORATORY STUDIES BEEN PERFORMED?

YES  NO

IF YES, CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:

<input type="checkbox"/> Recombinant immunoblot assay ( <i>RIBA</i> )	Date: _____	Results: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Hepatitis C genotype	Date: _____	Results: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Hepatitis C viral titers	Date: _____	Results: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> AST	Date: _____	Results: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> ALT	Date: _____	Results: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Alkaline phosphatase	Date: _____	Results: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Bilirubin	Date: _____	Results: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> INR (PT)	Date: _____	Results: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Creatinine	Date: _____	Results: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> MELD score	Date: _____	Results: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other, describe: _____	Date: _____	Results: _____

7C. HAS A LIVER BIOPSY BEEN PERFORMED?

YES  NO Date of test: \_\_\_\_\_ Results: \_\_\_\_\_

7D. ARE THERE ANY OTHER SIGNIFICANT DIAGNOSTIC TEST FINDINGS AND/OR RESULTS?

YES  NO

IF YES, PROVIDE TYPE OF TEST OR PROCEDURE, DATE AND RESULTS (*brief summary*):

**SECTION VIII - FUNCTIONAL IMPACT**

8. DOES THE VETERAN'S LIVER CONDITION IMPACT HIS OR HER ABILITY TO WORK?

YES  NO IF YES, DESCRIBE THE IMPACT OF EACH OF THE VETERAN'S LIVER CONDITIONS, PROVIDING ONE OR MORE EXAMPLES:

**SECTION IX - REMARKS**

9. REMARKS (If any)

**SECTION X - PHYSICIAN'S CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE**

**CERTIFICATION** - To the best of my knowledge, the information contained herein is accurate, complete and current.

10A. PHYSICIAN'S SIGNATURE

10B. PHYSICIAN'S PRINTED NAME

10C. DATE SIGNED

10D. PHYSICIAN'S PHONE AND FAX NUMBER

10E. PHYSICIAN'S MEDICAL LICENSE NUMBER

10F. PHYSICIAN'S ADDRESS

**NOTE** - VA may request additional medical information, including additional examinations if necessary to complete VA's review of the veteran's application.

**IMPORTANT** - Physician please fax the completed form to: \_\_\_\_\_

(VA Regional Office FAX No.)

**NOTE** - A list of VA Regional Office FAX Numbers can be found at [www.benefits.va.gov/disabilityexams](http://www.benefits.va.gov/disabilityexams) or obtained by calling 1-800-827-1000.

**PRIVACY ACT NOTICE:** VA will not disclose information collected on this form to any source other than what has been authorized under the Privacy Act of 1974 or Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations 1.576 for routine uses (i.e., civil or criminal law enforcement, congressional communications, epidemiological or research studies, the collection of money owed to the United States, litigation in which the United States is a party or has an interest, the administration of VA programs and delivery of VA benefits, verification of identity and status, and personnel administration) as identified in the VA system of records, 58VA21/22/28, Compensation, Pension, Education and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Records - VA, published in the Federal Register. Your obligation to respond is voluntary. VA uses your SSN to identify your claim file. Providing your SSN will help ensure that your records are properly associated with your claim file. Giving us your SSN account information is voluntary. Refusal to provide your SSN by itself will not result in the denial of benefits. VA will not deny an individual benefits for refusing to provide his or her SSN unless the disclosure of the SSN is required by a Federal Statute of law in effect prior to January 1, 1975, and still in effect. The requested information is considered relevant and necessary to determine maximum benefits under the law. The responses you submit are considered confidential (38 U.S.C. 5701). Information submitted is subject to verification through computer matching programs with other agencies.

**RESPONDENT BURDEN:** We need this information to determine entitlement to benefits (38 U.S.C. 501). Title 38, United States Code, allows us to ask for this information. We estimate that you will need an average of 30 minutes to review the instructions, find the information, and complete a form. VA cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless a valid OMB control number is displayed. You are not required to respond to a collection of information if this number is not displayed. Valid OMB control numbers can be located on the OMB Internet Page at [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). If desired, you can call 1-800-827-1000 to get information on where to send comments or suggestions about this form.